

Message Text

SECRET

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20

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 NEA-06 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 SAB-01 /066 W

----- 068519

O R 211140Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9637

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T LUSAKA 2275

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR X ZA

SUBJ:M ZAMBIAN FONMIN TO VISIT POPE WITH PRES NIMIERI AND HIM

HAILE SELASSIE

1. MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS VERNON MWAANGA DEPARTED LUSAKA AT 10:10 A.M. FRIDAY DEC 21 FOR NAIROBI TO CONNECT WITH EC 654 ARRIVING ROME 0605 DEC 22. FONMIN WILL REPRESENT PRESIDENT KAUNDA AT PAPAL AUDIENCE SATURDAY DEC 22 FOR HIM HAILE SELASSIE AND PRESIDENT NIMIERI. SAID CONFIRMATION OF AUDIENCE RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR KAUNDA TO ACCEPT, COMING AS IT DID IN MIDST OF CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS AND PRESIDENT'S PLANS FOR NEEDED REST IN LUANGWA VALLEY FOLLOWING TIRING ROUND OF GENERAL ELECTIONS

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AND FORMATION OF NEW ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT.

2. FONMIN TOLD ME JUST BEFORE HE BOARDED PLANE THAT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WOULD BE PRINCIPAL AGENDA ITEM BUT INITIATIVE AND SPECIFICS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH POPE WOULD BE LEFT TO HAILE SELASSI AS SPOKESMAN. ADDED THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION WOULD BE GIVEN TO QUESTION OF JERUSALEM. STRESSED NEED TO RESPECT UNIQUE RELIGIOUS CHARACTER OF CITY.

3. FONMIN SAID PRESIDENT KAUNDA VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN US ASSESSMENT ON PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST AND HE HOPED WE COULD HAVE EXTENDED DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT ON HIS RETURN. I TOUCHED ON COMPLEXITIES OUTLINED IN BRIEFING INSTRUCTIONS IN STATE'S 244474 WHICH FONMIN ASSURED ME -- AS HAD HIS PRECESSOR -- WERE FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY GRZ. SAID HE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE USG VIEWS ON JERUSALEM.

4. IN VIEW OF HIS HURRIED DEPARTURE FROM LUSAKA I SUGGESTED REPRESENTATIVE FROM EMBASSY ROME MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE HIM WITH SUMMARY STATEMENT ON USG POLICY UPON OR SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN ROME. FAILING THIS BUT WITH NEEDED INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT ON JERUSALEM ISSUE WE COULD RESPOND TO FONMIN UPON HIS RETURN TO LUSAKA MONDAY, DEC 24. HE WAS HOPEFUL SOME CONTACT COULD BE MADE IN ROME.
WILKOWSKI

SECRET

NNN

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